

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

The method according to the invention includes the following steps:

for each transmission direction through at least one of said sub-networks,

- a. associating a same identifier with the quasi-simultaneously transmitted packets,
- b. time-stamping and recording the received packets,
- c. identifying and sorting the packets received with the same identifier,
- d. selecting the largest possible ~~integral~~-integer number m of groups of packets with the same identifier,
- e. measuring the time intervals separating the instants when the packets of the selected groups are received by the second point,
- f. calculating the bandwidth according to the number of packets of the selected groups and to the total transmission time of these packets.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment, the bandwidth is calculated with the following expression:

$$\overline{BW} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left[\frac{1}{n_m} \sum_{i=1}^{n_m-1} \frac{l_{i,m}}{t_{(i+1),m} - t_{i,m}} \right]$$

wherein

- $l_{i,m}$ represents the length of the packet of rank i of the m^{th} group of packets,
- t_i represents the time mark of the packet of rank i of the m^{th} group of packets,
- t_{i+1} represents the time mark of the packet of rank i+1 of m^{th} group of packets,
- n represents the number of packets of the m^{th} group of packets.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

In a second embodiment of the invention, the evaluation of the bandwidth is performed off-line wherein evaluation of the bandwidth between a first point and a second point is made when there is no digital data exchange between said points.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 1 schematically illustrates a bidirectional digital link 1 between a first terminal A and a second terminal B connected to a first local network 42 and to a second local network ~~6~~4 respectively and exchanging digital data through a first sub-network 6 and a second sub-network 8 according to the TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) mode or according to the UDP (User Datagram Protocol). First and second modules (10, 12) for marking data packets transmitted by terminal A (B, respectively) and a module (14, 16) for analyzing data packets received by terminal A (B, respectively) are laid out at each end of the digital link 1 between terminals A and B, respectively.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

To evaluate the available end-to-end bandwidth, the extraction module 24 isolates the data packets transmitted during a very short time from the transmitting terminal to the receiving terminal and transmits these packets to the time-stamping module 28 which associates a transmission date with each packet. The packets are then stored in the memory 30. The module 32 sorts the packets bearing the same sending date and transmits them to the module 34. The latter selects an ~~integral~~integer number of groups from the sorted groups including the largest number of packets and transmits these groups to the measurement module 36 which measures the time intervals separating the reception of different successive packets. The measured intervals are then transmitted to the module 38 for calculating the bandwidth, which calculates on-line the bandwidth of the link according to the total length of the analyzed packets and to the transmission time of these packets. Offline evaluation is also contemplated, wherein evaluation

of the bandwidth between a first point and a second point is made when there is no digital data exchange between said points.